

REMARKS

In the above-referenced office action, a restriction requirement was made final and certain claims were rejected under 35 USC 102. Claims 6-8, 24, 26 and 35-39 were objected to and Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter.

Initially upon review, Applicant questions the exclusion of claim 32 as this claim appears to be directed to the elected species. Applicant acknowledges that in the election, claim 32 was not included by Applicant; however, this appears to be an error and the Examiner is requested to clarify the restriction requirement accordingly.

With respect to the rejection under 35 USC 102 over Tockman et al., Applicant respectfully asserts that the pending claims are not anticipated by the reference. With respect to, for example, claim 1, the tapered passageway is defined as narrowing from a proximal end towards a distal end. The passageway facilitates the entry of a guidewire or stylet through the tool and into the lead. This is the opposite of the structure of Tockman et al. which provides a collar that compress around a guidewire as the collar is screwed onto the tool, towards the distal end. The tapered passageway, as interpreted by the Examiner, is a compression mechanism and is not meant as a means to facilitate the insertion of a guidewire or the like.

Claim 3 has been amended to indicate that the proximal portion and distal portion may rotate with respect to one another without requiring lateral relative movement. The Tockman et al. tool does not permit relative rotational movement of connected tool portions. Rather, each end includes a collar that upon rotation compresses a structure (e.g., lead, guidewire). Thus, rotation of that structure (e.g. lead, guidewire) through rotation of the tool is not permitted until the collar is secured and hence no longer rotatable.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and requests notice of the same. Should any issues remain outstanding the Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned to expedite prosecution. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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